



St Mary MacKillop

WESTERN BORDER PARISH, DIOCESE OF BALLARAT



Parish Office: 23 Dinwoodie Street, HAMILTON VIC 3300

Office Hours: 9:00am to 4:00pm, Tuesday to Friday

Phone (all hours): (03) 5571 1161

Website: www.westernborder.church

E-mail: westernborder@ballarat.catholic.org.au

St Patrick's **Balmoral**
Sacred Heart **Casterton**
St Joseph's **Coleraine**
St Patrick's **Dunkeld**
St Malachy's **Edenhope**
St Thomas' **Glenhompson**
St Mary's **Hamilton**
St Michael's **Harrow**
St Joseph's **Penshurst**
St Joseph's **Tarrayoukyan**

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th July, 2026 | Year A

HIDDEN TREASURE IN OUR MIDST

This Sunday the Church celebrates World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, fittingly observed on the feast of Sts Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus. The Sunday Gospel is also apt, as one of the greatest treasures in our communities is hidden in plain sight: the wisdom, faith and quiet witness of our older generations. In his message for the day, Pope Leo writes that old age is not a season of decline, but a calling to bear witness to God's enduring faithfulness.



We see that witness in a remarkable way this weekend as Fr Damien Heath celebrates his Platinum Jubilee in Casterton. For seventy years he has faithfully served God's people, bringing Christ's mercy to countless lives through the sacraments, preaching and pastoral care. Like the merchant in the Gospel, Fr Damien found the pearl of great price and he has spent his life helping others to discover it too.

During his visit for Fr Damien's Jubilee, Bishop Mark Freeman is celebrating Mass in Hamilton and Coleraine. I am grateful to Fr Shane Carr for celebrating the 10:30 Sunday Mass in Hamilton, allowing Fr Cay and me to join Fr Damien in Casterton for his Jubilee festivities.

Pope Leo invites each of us this week to spend time with an elderly neighbour, friend or relative. An unhurried conversation is a simple yet powerful act of Christian service, through which we often discover unexpected wisdom and one of the hidden treasures in our midst.

God bless,

Fr John

PARISH TEAM

Parish Secretaries: **Carolyn Stanhope** and **Kymhan Watson**

Parish Manager: **John Hockey** - managerwb@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Priest: **Fr John Corrigan** - john.corrigan@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Assistant Priest: **Fr Cay Trinh** - cay.trinh@ballarat.catholic.org.au

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Casterton: **Brenda Bath** - 0427 701 327

Coleraine: **Kevin Myers** - 0407 688 449

LET US PRAY

FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED:

FOR THE SICK:

Loui Brown, Michael Callaway, Enzo Diano, Roma Doherty, Ian Ferguson, Andy Gordon, Quirinus Onderwater, Jaibu Philip, Bernadette Rees.

FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:

Balmoral:

Casterton: Mick Hinckey, Bill & Thelma McGinty, Michael Smith, Carmelette Murphy, Patricia Smith, Michael Hickey, Maureen Smith, Veronica Humphries, Brett Ryan, Roa Thompson, Michael and Eleanor Kelly, Katie Fleming, Bonnie Norris, Christopher Baulch, Jack Smith, Brian Upton, Patricia Dooly, Anne Stanbury, Bill McLaren, Joan Hannaford, John Cleary.

Coleraine: Terry Fitzgerald, Dorothy Heffernan, Edward Watt.

Edenhope: Tom Campbell, Pauline Mackie, Frankie Baxter, Rona Cass, Thelma Tansey, Peg Dwyer, Vera Mahoney, Vincent Redden.

Hamilton: John McDonald, Leon Lowe, Rowena Finnegan, Dennis Turner, Norm Parker, Pete Taylor, Brian Clark, Mark Brown, Brian Storer, Ken Tuppen, Margie Eales, Diane Ryan.

THIS WEEK'S ROSTER

St Patrick's, Balmoral - No Liturgy

- Reader:
- Intercessions:

Sacred Heart (11am Mass)

- Reader: C Koch
- Commentator: K Hausler
- Communion: C Condon, M Davies
- Counters: M O'Connell, P Durbidge

St Joseph's, Coleraine (9am Mass)

- Reader: Shane Whelan

St Malachy's, Edenhope (11.15am Lay-Led Assembly)

- Leader: C McCann * Reader: C Heenan
- Intercessions: G Clarke

St Joseph's, Penshurst (8.30am Mass)

- Reader: Brendan Kelly
- Prayers: Terry Pezzutti
- Gifts: Theresa & Anita

St Joseph's Tarrayoukyan (9am Mass)

Grange - John Hockey

NEXT WEEK'S ROSTER -2nd Aug

St Patrick's, Balmoral 9am Mass)

- Reader: Gerard
- Intercessions: Hubert

Sacred Heart, Casterton (9am Mass)

- Reader: M O'Connell
- Commentator: Shane Kelly
- Communion: Riya, M Davis
- Counters: M Murphy, H Gorman

St Joseph's, Coleraine (9am Lay-Led Assembly)

- Readers: Aileen Utber

St Malachy's, Edenhope (11.15am Mass)

- Reader: C McFarlane
- Intercessions: A Kealy

St Joseph's, Penshurst - No Liturgy

Leader:

Reader:

Prayers:

Grange - Maria Patience

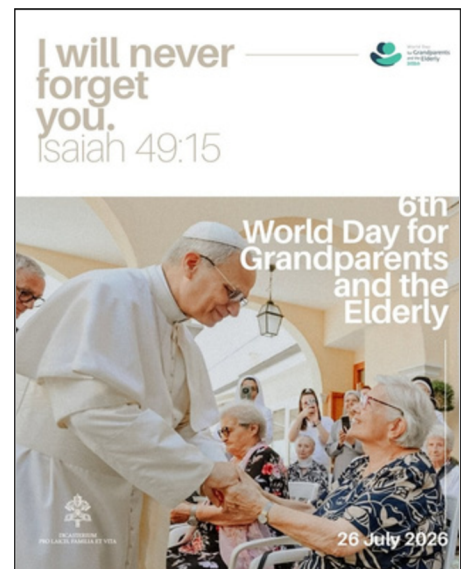
St Mary's Hamilton	Opening & Welcome	Cuppa	Computer	Commentator	First Reading	Second Reading	Communion
Sat 25/07	Chris Jansen	Vanessa Storan	Chris Jansen	Fiona-Marie	Jacinta Ryan	Jett Storan	N & N Joseph
Sun 26/07	Carolyn Stanhope	Trish & Maria	Carolyn Stanhope	Sherrie Hockey	Wendy Collins	Jacob Nenke	T Irving R & U Murphy
Sat 01/08	Karen Brewis	Chris & Kathie	Jacinta Ryan	Karen Brewis	Fiona-Marie	Terrielynn	T Goves P Kelly
Sun 02/08	John Hockey	Della & Glenn	Carolyn Stanhope	Wendy Collins	Rohan Fitzgerald	Trish Irving	F Soulsby T Hurley M Cook

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

Holy Father, who watches over every person, watch over me too when I am elderly. You have revealed your name to me in Christ, and you were not discouraged by my frailties. You hold me tenderly in your hands, and you caress my lines. You will never forget me!

Grant that I may not fear my weakness; help me learn to love it just as you love it. Help me embrace it just as you have chosen it - you who, though all-powerful, clothed yourself in humility. May growing old strip away all our pride and all division so that we may live these years united in You. You will never forget us!

Praying as always, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.



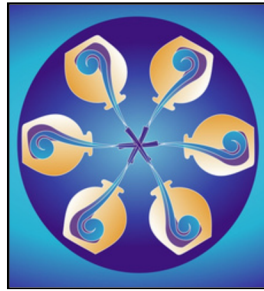
MONDAY 27 th JULY Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time	TUESDAY 28 th JULY Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time	WEDNESDAY 29 th JULY Sts Martha, Mary & Lazarus
9.30am Mass, Hamilton 5pm Reconciliation, Hamilton	4pm Adoration, Hamilton 5:15pm Mass, Hamilton	9:30am Mass, Hamilton 10am Rosary & Litany, Casterton 5pm Rosary, Hamilton

RETREAT DAY IN HAMILTON

Sunday 9th August, 11:30am to 5pm, MacKillop Centre

NO COST - Funded by the Ballarat Diocesan Foundation

Discover how food, conversation, and companionship can be pathways to God. Led by experienced Spiritual Director Anna Schlooz, this unique retreat invites you to prayerfully explore Gospel meal stories where Jesus gathered with friends and strangers alike.



Inspired by St Ignatius' *Rules for Eating*, participants will engage in contemplative prayer and explore the sacredness of everyday experiences. The retreat also incorporates creative prayer, inviting you to create simple artworks. Anna brings a rich background in arts education and Ignatian spirituality to guide you in your prayer. Material and meals are provided; please bring your own journal and Bible. Register your interest at ecomyriad@gmail.com by Monday 3rd August.

HAMILTON LADIES LUNCH & BOOK EXCHANGE



Looking for good food and great company? Join a small group of parish ladies who meet at the Botanical Motel on the first Thursday of each month. We enjoy a shared meal, a friendly chat about life, and a casual book exchange. Whether you're a lifelong reader or just looking for a chat, new members are warmly welcome!

Next meeting: **12:30pm, Thursday 6th August**
Contact Marie Cook: **0417 321 378**

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS

Please feel free to take home a complimentary copy of the latest issue of *Australian Catholics*. Or take one with you when you are visiting parishioners who are house-bound or in hospital.



PARISH PILGRIM STATUE

Our parish pilgrim statue encourages parishioners to set aside a week to host a public Rosary and honour Our Lady's request at Fatima to pray for peace.

This week: Margaret and Bryan Roberts
30 Gray Street

Rosary daily at 4 pm

If you would like to join the roster and bring the statue into your home for a week, please contact Chris Jansen: 0407 719 530



ST VINNIES WINTER APPEAL

Leaving collection next weekend:
Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd August

In addition to financial donations, offerings of non-perishable food items are always welcome – eg: sandwich spreads, tinned foods (fruit, baked beans, spaghetti), and easily prepared packet food. Thank you for your generosity and support for those in need in our local community.



ST MARY MACKILLOP ONLINE NOVENA

7:30 to 8pm, from Thursday 30th July
Visit: <https://zoom.us/j/92816949299>

As we approach the feast of St Mary MacKillop on Saturday 8th August, people across Australia and the world are invited to make an online pilgrimage through Mary's life. Across nine evenings, we'll journey through the significant moments that shaped her faith, courage, and hope, discovering how St Mary's story can inspire our own pilgrimage of life. All are warmly welcome!

THURSDAY 30 th JULY Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time	FRIDAY 31 st JULY St Ignatius of Loyola, Priest	SATURDAY 1 st AUGUST St Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop, Doctor
7:30am Men's Prayer Group , St Mary's Presbytery, Hamilton 9:30am Mass , Penshurst 10am Mass , Casterton 2:30pm Anointing , The Birches 4pm Adoration , Hamilton 5:15pm Mass , Hamilton	9:30am Mass , Hamilton 5pm Reconciliation , Hamilton  <i>"It is dangerous to make everybody go forward by the same road: and worse to measure others by oneself."</i> – St Ignatius of Loyola	9:30am Mass , Hamilton 10am Reconciliation , Hamilton 5pm Reconciliation , Hamilton 6pm Mass , Hamilton <i>"Whoever neglects prayer neglects salvation."</i> – St Alphonsus Liguori 

FIRST READING

1 Kings 3:5.7-12

A reading from the First Book of Kings

You have asked for wisdom

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

RESPONSORIAL

Ps 118:57.72.76-77.127-130. R. v.97

R/. Lord, I love your commands.

My part, I have resolved, O Lord,
is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means more to me
than silver and gold.

Let your love be ready to console me
by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come to me and I shall live
for your law is my delight.

That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold.
That is why I rule my life by your precepts:
I hate false ways.

Your will is wonderful indeed;
therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light
and teaches the simple.



SECOND READING

Romans 8:28-30

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

He predestined us to become true images of his Son

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 11:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones
the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:44-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

He sells everything he owns and buys the field

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

SUNDAY 2 nd AUGUST Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY
8:30am Mass , Dunkeld 9am Mass , Balmoral 9am Mass , Casterton 9am Lay-Led Assembly , Coleraine 10:30am Mass , Hamilton 11:15 Mass , Edenhope	We adhere to Victoria's eleven Child Safe standards. Our policies are displayed in our churches and on our website. Our Parish Safety Officer is John Hockey - 0439 319 823. 	St Mary MacKillop Parish recognises the Traditional Custodians of parish lands: the Eastern Maar people, the Gunditjmarra people, and the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk Nations. The parish acknowledges their deep and continuing connection to the land, water and community.